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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Burma

DATE DISTR. 19 July 1951

SUBJECT Developments in Burma as a Result of a Split
Between the Socialists and NE WIN

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. The Burmese Socialists are trying to depose General NE WIN and they are gaining control over the army.
2. The morale of the Government of Burma (GOB) organized military forces is rapidly deteriorating. Individual battalion commanders have become independent area commanders operating with a minimum of coordination. They will take no orders or instructions from the civil authorities and receive no orders from the central army headquarters.¹
3. NE WIN has informed the British Services Mission that he intends taking one month's leave, probably in England. Although outwardly the situation is calm, army officers have already begun to jockey for position as they believe that General NE WIN will soon leave Burma, probably for good.
4. U WIN, the Minister of Defense, is attempting to build up the strength of the Union Military Police (UMP) and to control the activities of the People's Peace Guerrillas. The Socialists are effectively trying to remove officers opposing them by pressing definite charges of disloyalty or dishonesty against the latter. As a result 11 officers, most of them field officers, have requested leave or have been relieved of their commands.
5. General NE WIN's War Office Staff, which is filled with his appointees, is reported to be incompetent. These officers include Colonel BO, Lt. Col. BA YIN, Lt. Col. THAN WIN, Lt. Col. BA SWE, and Lt. Col. KHIN NYO. They have not openly sided with the Socialists but their loyalty to NE WIN is questionable.
6. The Socialists have placed all their emphasis on controlling the army in South Burma. They are not particularly concerned with the units in North Burma under Colonel Blake, although they are trying to control the Officers Training School at Maymyo.

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7. If the Socialist designs to take over the army are known, the army will split into pro-Socialists and anti-Socialists with very grave consequences.
8. Lt. Col. KYI WIN, a brother-in-law of BA SWE, and Colonel KYAW ZAW are the leaders of the Socialist Political group within the army. They virtually control the entire Socialist military structure — the Burma Territorial Force, the Peace Guerrillas, and the Union Military Police under Bo AUNG GYI.
9. General NE WIN has ordered Brigadier LAZUM TANG, the senior Kachin officer in the Burmese army, to Peiping as Burmese Military Attache. LAZUM TANG has refused this appointment. NE WIN continues his efforts to remove LAZUM TANG from office but the latter thus far has refused to retire. If LAZUM TANG is removed SAU GAM, the Assistant Deputy Inspector General of Police for the UMP in the North Burma area, will probably defect to NAW SENG. Brigadier LAZUM TANG is reported in Kengtung where his status is not clear but he is reported to have been transferred.
10. THEIN PE (aka THEIN PE MYINT) is trying to bring Bo ZE YA out of hiding to take control of the army.³ During the week ending 15 July, 160 surrendered personnel escaped and have gone underground. The most important of these escapees is TIN TUN AUNG, formerly of 1 Burma Rifles, who went underground with Major Bo SEIN TUN⁴ who is reputedly at present with Bo ZE YA.⁵
11. The 4 Burma Rifles under the command of Lt. Col. KYI WIN is the Socialists' crack battalion. The Socialists control the UMP through two battalion commanders: Colonel MYA THAUNG of 15 Battalion and Colonel PE AUNG of 16 Battalion.
12. Three weeks ago Colonel KYAW ZAW, hearing of the Socialists' plan to take over the army, asked NE WIN to grant him leave or accept his resignation. It is reported that NE WIN accepted his resignation.
13. The following officers oppose the Socialists' plans to control the army:
 - a. Colonel CHIT MYAING, 3 Burma Rifles, at Toungoo. He leads the political faction of the army.
 - b. Lt. Col. SAW MYINT, 5 Burma Rifles, at Thaton.
 - c. Colonel TIN OO, 6 Burma Rifles, at Tharrawaddy.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. An independent source reports that there are now no Burmese regular troops in Rangoon.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The removal of LAZUM TANG would probably further aggravate the critical situation in the Kachin State and seriously reduce the efficiency of the GOB military forces as he is one of the few aggressive combat officers.

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. Possibly Bo SEIN TIN.

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5. [REDACTED] Comment. This escape probably has something to do with THEIN PE. THEIN PE is also cultivating Brigadier LET YA.

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- [REDACTED] Comment. See also [REDACTED] on THEIN PE's activities.

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